

Message Text

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15

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:AFANTIPPAS:CEJ

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DOD/ISA:HOAMOS

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R 232238Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO COMUSSAG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168391

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, CB

SUBJECT: STATUS OF NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION

REF: PHNOM PENH 9695

1. WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE PESSIMISTIC REPORT IN THE REFTEL CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE GKR'S EFFORTS TO RAISE THE NECESSARY MANPOWER FOR ITS UNDERSTRENGTH ARMY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE LONG LEAD TIME FOR CONSCRIPTION AND TRAINING MEANS THAT THE FANK WOULD NOT RECEIVE REPLACEMENTS BEFORE EARLY 1974 BUT FEEL THAT THE GKR IS NOT TAKING THE TASK SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.

2. IN TAM'S REASONS FOR OPPOSING THE DRAFT OF YOUNGER MEN ARE PROBABLY POLITICAL SINCE HE MAY NOT WANT TO ALIENATE THE STUDENTS BUT WHAT ARE U SAY'S REASONS? DOES THE CONSCRIPTION LAW REQUIRE THAT OLDER MEN BE TAKEN FIRST? WHAT IS PRESENT ROLE OF JOINT COMMITTEE IN SAK SUTHSAKHAN'S ABSENCE?

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3. WE FIND IT ALMOST INCREDIBLE THAT GIVEN THE VAST POOL

OF IDLE MANPOWER AVAILABLE IN PHNOM PENH AND THE DIRE NEED FOR MEN THAT THE GKR IS NOT PRESSING AHEAD WITH MASS ORGANIZATION. FOR EXAMPLE, DOES THE GKR HAVE ANY PLANS FOR A LEVY OF CIVILIANS FOR WORK ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE PERIMETERS OF THE CAPITAL AND OTHER THREATENED CENTERS?

4. WE HOPE THAT THE EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE GKR FOR A GREATER EFFORT. RUSH

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